26th September 1956]

that whenever both the parties concerned agree to arbitration the Government will not stand against it. Rather they would welcome it.

Alleged assault of certain persons by the Police in Coimbatore

* 225 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Ira. Rangaswami and two others S. C. Viswanathan and K. Marimuthu were taken to Vaisya Street Police station in Coimbatore at 2 a.m. on 30th July 1955 by two constables in mufti while they were fixing the wall posters issued by the Dravida Kazhagam in bamboo thattis, and kept in the Police lock-up till 3 p.m. on 1st August 1955;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Mr. John Khan Sahib, Sub-Inspector of Police, indulged in abusive language against them and severely beat them causing bleeding injuries on their legs, hands, bodies, etc.;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a doctor of the Headquarters Hospital, Coimbatore, examined them on their release from the Police lock-up, and issued wound certificates to them;

(*d*) whether any complaint was received from them by the Government; and

(*e*) whether any action was taken against the Police Officer, and, if so, what it was?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that three persons Ramaswami, son of Rama Naicker, Viswanathan, son of Veerabhadra Naidu and Marimuthu, son of Ganesha Asari, were arrested at about 2 a.m. on 30th July 1955. They were remanded to custody by the Town Sub-Magistrate on the morning of the same day. As the 30th and 31st were holidays, the accused were kept confined in the Police lock-up as remand prisoners and taken to Court on 1st August 1955.

(*b*) No, Sir.

(*c*) Yes, Sir.

(*d*) No complaint was received by the Government. It has however been reported that Sri Viswanathan preferred a private complaint in Court. The Third City Magistrate, Coimbatore, inquired into the complaint under section 202, Criminal Procedure Code. He dismissed the complaint as he found that the allegations were baseless.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Sir, for what offence and under what circumstances these three persons were arrested and taken to police custody?

ALONE TRIUMPHS

[26th September 1956

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : They were found affixing posters containing an appeal to the public to take part in the "National Flag Burning Agitation" on 1st August 1955. Therefore, they were taken into custody.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Was such posting of posters prohibited by an order of the Government and was the arrest made in pursuance of that order?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, to incite the public to burn the National Flag cannot be permitted and that is why we issued instructions that it should be prevented and in pursuance of that order, preventive action was taken against these persons.

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Sir, affixing wall posters in the early hours of the day cannot be an offence. Under what provision of law were the instructions issued and what sort of offence does it constitute?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : They were arrested under section 151, Criminal Procedure Code. The Government cannot tolerate any incitement to burn the National Flag and therefore we issued strict instructions. I am glad that preventive action was taken and the incident was effectively prevented.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : Does not an insult to the National Flag by itself constitute an offence?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, legally it has not been made an offence, but the Government are determined to see that if any attempt is made to burn the National Flag, it is prevented. If necessary, legislation will also be undertaken for that purpose. I am sorry that the hon. Members should take an attitude as if they are supporting this and think that there is nothing wrong. That attitude itself, I am sorry, cannot be appreciated.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : May I know whether it is proper for the Police to keep these persons in custody for two days without sending them to Court?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I have already stated that 30th and 31st July 1955 were holidays. That is why they could not be produced before the Court. If there has been any illegal detention, there are provisions in the law for taking action.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : Sir, I would like the Hon. the Minister to understand that I am not suggesting that any affront to the National Flag should be tolerated. In view of the fact that such an act has not been made a legal offence and when the Government have got to take action, they have got to circumvent the law and take extra-legal action, may I know whether the Government would be prepared to undertake legislation forthwith to the effect that any affront to the dignity of the Naional Flag will be an offence?

26th September 1956]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : But I hope that commonsense would have prevailed now and that in future there will not be any attempt to burn the National Flag or insult the National Flag in any way.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, I have to point out that the law is very strict and no person can be detained in Police custody for more than 24 hours. If, as is admitted, these persons have been kept in custody for more than 24 hours, may I know what action are the Government going to take against those persons who detained them for more than 24 hours? If the Court was not sitting in the Court premises on those days, there are provisions whereby the concerned persons could be taken to the houses of the Magistrates.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, in cases of illegal detention, there is provision in the law for the purpose of getting redress against such illegal detention. Here the circumstances under which they were kept in the Police lock-up have been sufficiently explained.

Cottage industries on paper production

* 226 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Member Sri A. Ratnam is not in his seat, the question and answer will be printed in the proceedings. 9-10 a.m.

SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the raw materials required to start a paper mill;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start paper mills;

(c) whether the Government are encouraging any cottage industries on paper production; and

(d) if so, the particulars?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) The main raw materials required for the manufacture of paper are—

(i) Any cellulosic raw material such as soft wood, bamboo, eta reed, Sabhai grass, waste paper, rags, tailor's cutting, etc.;

(ii) chemicals like chlorine, caustic soda, alum, etc.;

(iii) other materials like chalk, rosin, etc.; and

(iv) water and electric power.

(b) Yes, Sir. Proposals to start either a newsprint or a rayon pulp plant in the public sector near Bhavanisagar utilizing the bluegum and wattle wood of the Nilgiris are under consideration. Paper industry is generally left for development in the private sector.